City of Barrie
Report of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 05, 2026 at 05:30 PM
For consideration by the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee

Present:
K. MacLeod
D. MacKeown
S. Schwarz
J. Bourne
L. Hoffarth
J. Northcote
D. Waters

Absent:
Councillor, S. Morales
Councillor, B. Hamilton
N. Flinn
W. Steimle
E. van Wesenbeeck

Staff:
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne
Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations, K. Rankin
Supervisor of Landscape Architecture, K. Lilienthal

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Turf Grass

Members of Committee discussed the accepted types of sod developers can use within the City of Barrie and posed questions as to whether alternatives to a Kentucky Blue Grass mix could be used. Karen Lilienthal, Supervisor of Landscape Architecture, advised that the City's infrastructure standards, which are spread across multiple documents, outline the permitted sod types for new development,

and would need to be reviewed if native or pollinator friendly alternatives were included.

Turf Grass - Native and Pollinator-Supportive Alternatives

That staff review the City's infrastructure standards related to sod specifications and assess opportunities to allow or promote alternative turf mixtures, where appropriate and consistent with industry standards and best practices, including options that incorporate native species and pollinator□supportive alternatives

Approved for consideration by Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee

3.2 Sustainability in Building

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

3.3 Winter Access to City Parks and North Shore Trail

The Committee discussed winter access to City parks and trails, particularly in the area near Kempenfelt Drive. Kevin Rankin, Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations, provided an overview of the current winter maintenance standards and advised as the City has hundreds of access/plow out points, it would be difficult to provide winter access to all City parks and trails. Members of Committee noted the unprecedented amount of snow Barrie has received this year.

3.4 Outstanding Mandate Items Discussion

The Committee continued discussions on outstanding mandate items and worked towards compiling a list of top priorities to focus on for the remainder of the term. Members brainstormed ideas for bike-friendly initiatives, an environmental support grant, active transportation campaigns and sustainability incentives for residents and developers. A final list of priorities will be circulated among the Committee.

3.5 Annual Bicycle Poker Ride

Member Steve Schwarz provided information regarding Living Green Barrie's 2026 Bicycle Poker Ride. The ride aims to demonstrate Barrie's accessibility when traveling by two-wheeled vehicle, and promotes active transportation while supporting local businesses. He noted that the event encompasses items under the Committee's mandate and encouraged other Members to get involved.

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

CHAIRMAN